



# Montgomery County Council

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **COUNTY COUNCIL TO APPOINT TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM**

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The Montgomery County Council today established a nine-member blue ribbon task force to advise it on mental health delivery and services.

“Our mental health system is in crisis. The state has failed to meet its responsibility, and we must focus intensively on what needs to be done to fix it,” said Council President Blair Ewing. “This task force will provide us with an unbiased, point of view from distinguished mental health professionals who are outside the of county and state government.”

The task force will focus on developing an impartial analysis of the county’s current mental health system and recommending those changes needed to better serve residents. It will advise the Council on how and under what circumstance the county and state should provide mental health services, to whom, with what priority, and at what cost.

The task force, which is expected to be appointed on July 31, 2001, also will make recommendations about what the state’s public mental health system should do to help the county. The task force would be expected to submit its report by February 1, 2002.

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